



Canine Influenza

The H3N2 canine flu strain was found in dogs in Chicago, but now it has spread widely. There have been confirmed cases in many areas in North Carolina. While there is not currently a vaccine specifically for this highly contagious disease, veterinarians are hoping that the vaccine available for the older strains may be somewhat effective for the newest strain also.

Below is the AVMA release concerning canine influenza

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/Pages/Canine-Influenza-Backgrounder.aspx>

Iredell County, NC

County officials are proposing changes to the animal ordinances. Area residents should contact their local officials and engage in this process immediately. At this time, let officials know that there is a large exotic animal community and request to work on the language for any proposed ordinance. They likely simply need to be educated. Remember to be professional and civil at all times!

A public hearing on this proposed ordinance was held August 25, 2015. The ordinance is posted online here <http://tinyurl.com/oxgwyjl>

The proposed ordinance includes a number of very problematic changes for dog, cat, and horse owners.

1. A poorly worded new definition of companion animal has been added. "Companion Animal means any animal kept primarily for pleasure, rather than utility, including, but not limited to, all domestic dogs (*canis lupus familiaris*), domestic cats (*felis catus*), and all members of the horse family (*equidae*), except when equines are used exclusively and actively for the maintenance of other utility livestock." It is not clear which dogs will be considered utility or what purposes will be considered as kept for pleasure or why this division is necessary. Horses must never be defined as companion animals. They are livestock under state law and should remain so. Any classification other than livestock would subject horses to care standards at the whim of local officials.
2. Size requirement for outdoor enclosures has been added. "As a guide, the enclosure should be a minimum of one hundred (100) square feet, plus five (5) square feet for each pound over twenty-five (25) total combined pounds for the animals contained therein." Following this guideline, two 40-pound dogs kenneled together would require a 375 SF enclosure. A small kennel with 6 dogs would therefore require

enclosures equaling 1,175 SF and 10 dogs would require pens totaling 1,975 SF. There is no logic or basis in either science or animal husbandry to dictate such pen sizes. These excessive space requirements impose unnecessary restrictions on hunters and dog hobbyists.

3. Added to cruelty to animals, new 5(c). ‘Dew claw removal and tail docking may only be performed by a veterinarian.’ Mandating that these simple procedures only be performed by a veterinarian places more stress and risk on newborn puppies than having the procedure done at home and risks exposure to disease.

4. Added to cruelty to animals, new 5(l), tethering requirements, setting minimum tether length at 10 feet with food, water, shelter required, and no tethering of companion animals less than 6 months of age. This requirement is problematic for hunting dogs being trained in the field. This also eliminates use of short tethers to tie out young dogs on a cable to watch older dogs being trained. In addition this provision eliminates use of short tethers for obedience and behavior training of dogs. Under the proposed ordinance many horses would now be included in the companion animal classification; however no clarification is given for using tie-rings or stall tethers.

5. Additions to Wild and Exotic Animals definition, including them as inherently dangerous and therefore banned. (a) All primates; (b) Reptiles or amphibians which are venomous or constricting reptiles more than eight (8) feet (currently 10 feet); (c) hybrid dogs and cats.

The justification given for banning hybrid cats and dogs is based on the fact no rabies vaccines are licensed for use in hybrids. This is a complicated subject and this discussion overlooks the logical aspect of administration and efficiency of rabies vaccinations in hybrids. The proposal to ban hybrids does not take into consideration the fact many hybrids, both dog and cat, can be generations away from the original wild-domestic cross. In 1996 Kansas State University ran a study on Bengals who had been vaccinated by rabies and found that 100% had retained immunity based on titers. Kansas State University continues to be part of the process to evaluate antibody test reports.

Read more on hybrid-derived domestic breeds from TICA
http://ticaleg.org/position_statement_about_domesti.htm

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) states in its Animal Welfare regulations, “Crosses between wild animal species and domestic animals, such as dogs and wolves or buffalo and domestic cattle, are considered to be domestic animals.”

Topical Meds for Humans, May Adversely Affect Pets

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration is alerting pet owners, veterinarians, health care providers and pharmacists that pets are at risk of illness and death when exposed to topical pain medications containing the nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) flurbiprofen. People using these medications, should use care when applying them in a household with pets, as even very small amounts could be dangerous to these animals.

The FDA has received reports of cats in two households that became ill or died after their owners used topical medications containing flurbiprofen on themselves to treat muscle, joint, or other pain. The pet owners had applied the cream or lotion to their own neck or feet, and not directly to the pet, and it is not known exactly how the cats became exposed to the medication. The products contained the NSAID flurbiprofen and the muscle relaxer cyclobenzaprine, as well as other varying active ingredients, including baclofen, gabapentin, lidocaine, or prilocaine.

Two cats in one household developed kidney failure and recovered with veterinary care. Two cats in a second household developed signs that included reluctance to eat, lethargy, vomiting, melena (black, tarry, bloody stools), anemia, and dilute urine. These two cats died despite veterinary care. A third cat in the second household also died after the owner had stopped using the medication. Veterinarians performed necropsies on the three cats that died and found evidence in the kidneys and intestines that were consistent with NSAID toxicity.

The FDA recommends that people who use topical medications containing flurbiprofen take care to prevent their pets from being exposed to them, even in ways that may seem unlikely to cause problems.

- Store all medications safely out of the reach of pets.
- Safely discard or clean any cloth or applicator that may retain medication and avoid leaving any residues of the medication on clothing, carpeting or furniture.
- Consult your health care provider on whether it is appropriate to cover the treated area.
- If you are using topical medications containing flurbiprofen and your pet becomes exposed, bathe or clean your pet as thoroughly as possible and consult a veterinarian.
- If your pet shows signs such as lethargy, lack of appetite, vomiting, or other illness, seek veterinary care for your pet and be sure to provide the details of the exposure.
- Understand that, although the FDA has not received reports of dogs or other pets becoming sick in relation to the use of topical pain medications containing flurbiprofen, these animals may also be vulnerable to NSAID toxicity after being exposed to these medications.

Veterinarians who have patients who show signs of NSAID toxicity should ask whether anyone in the household has used topical pain medications containing flurbiprofen.

Health care providers who prescribe topical pain medications containing flurbiprofen and pharmacists who fill these prescriptions should advise patients with pets to take care to prevent exposure of the pet to the medication.

Pet owners and veterinarians can also report any adverse events to the FDA.

Please click on the following link to read FDA advice to consumers on pet exposure to prescription topical pain medications containing Flurbiprofen:

<http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ResourcesforYou/AnimalHealthLiteracy/ucm443332.htm>

COSTCO VS HSUS

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is taking its public relations fight against Costco Wholesale to another level. HSUS plans to broadcast graphic footage of hens allegedly being mistreated at a Pennsylvania supplier of eggs to Costco on a 1,700 square-foot billboard in Times Square. The undercover footage was shot at Hillandale Farms as part of a campaign to pressure the retailer to only sell eggs from cage-free hens. More than 300,000 pedestrians enter the heart of Times Square each day, according to the Times Square Alliance, a group that promotes businesses in the area. HSUS also filed legal complaints with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) alleging that Hillandale Farms, a Costco egg supplier, deceived consumers with its poor animal welfare standards and “filthy and unsanitary conditions,” resulting in food safety concerns. Costco’s CEO Craig Jelinek told FOXBusiness that they’re being unfairly targeted. Costco said in a June statement regarding the video that there are “vigorous debates about animal welfare and laying hens.” Some, such as the Humane Society, advocate that hens be cage free and not confined in cages. Some advocate that cages are safer for hens,” the statement reads. “Inspections that we have

conducted there as recently as this week confirmed for us that Hillandale is behaving appropriately. Hillandale has identified some areas in which it believes it can improve, including process improvement and more training for its employees.”

In the Hillandale Farms statement regarding this video they say that they have had audits by the FDA, United Egg Producers, and the Pennsylvania Egg Quality Assurance Program (PEQAP), all of which report excellent results for this farm. Hillandale provided copies of these reports to ABC after HSUS sent ABC a copy of the video. “We believe our high standards were compromised by this undercover employee, who shot the video in a barn where he was the primary caretaker, with responsibility to maintain cleanliness in the barns, address any equipment issues and remove mortality on a daily basis. It appears clear that he disregarded required operational procedures and then videotaped the barn and flock with the intent to misrepresent Hillandale Farms. A full internal investigation by our team and by independent outside academic experts in food safety and hen welfare confirmed our belief – that the images in the video reflect an isolated incident in a barn where the undercover worker held primary responsibility. It was his job to identify and address the types of issues that were shown, and he did not adequately perform his job requirements.”

<http://tinyurl.com/q843rsh>

USDA ANIMAL HEALTH PANEL INCLUDES HUMANE SOCIETY VET

Agri-Pulse August 18, 2015. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack has named 19 members of his Advisory Committee on Animal Health that will serve through June 2017. The panel, which is supposed to represent “a broad range” of groups within agriculture, includes a veterinarian from the National Pork Producer Council, several academics and livestock producers as well as the director of veterinary policy with the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), an animal welfare group that is widely unpopular in some circles of the agriculture industry.

In a 2012 interview posted on the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association website, the HSUS vet, Michael Blackwell, called HSUS “the most capable organization to influence our direction as a society.” When asked to name his top priority issue, he pointed to the health of food animals “especially as that is threatened by mechanized and industrial systems” that he said “can and do threaten public health and environmental safety.” Agriculture groups have criticized HSUS for its tactic of engaging in lawsuits to force producers and producer groups to spend money on legal fees and for helping to create legislation perceived by some as harmful to agriculture, such as the California egg law, which increased the space allocated in cages for every egg-laying chicken in the state.

More on the topic here: <http://tinyurl.com/nvf6jlu>

Let Ownership Prevail

We're all for pet ownership and do not like to be called mommies and daddies or guardians.

If you agree: Log on to:

www.peopleforpetownership.com

They are a group who are providing information debunking the animal rights agenda. You will probably find a lot of their blogs quite interesting.

ASPCA Merges with Humane Alliance

ASPCA builds large facility in Buncombe County in 2015, and merged with Humane Alliance this summer.

This report shows the way local actions can impact state, national, and international events. It all began with the death of a young, well liked, WLOS TV reporter Mimi Paige, whose love of animals was expressed in her reporting. Shortly after her death the Mimi Paige Foundation was formed with board members comprised of local dog show members, a veterinarian, and Buncombe County Commissioners and others. Their publicity was given lots of time on the WLOS channel. The members pressed for passage of a mandatory spay and neuter ordinance in the county that passed in 2003 with the strong push by former Asheville Kennel Club President, Barbara Pepper and Ellen Frost Education Chair. Ellen also served as President of the Mimi Paige Foundation and has continued on the Board. (In spite of their anti-dog stance, Ellen is now herself serving as a county commissioner. Barbara unabashedly is still judging intact dogs all over the country for their breeding quality as an AKC conformation judge.) Current influential member of Asheville Kennel Club is Michelle Amtower, DVM, employed by Asheville Humane Alliance.

Under this ordinance, still in effect, all canines and felines six months of age and older residing in Buncombe County must be rendered surgically sterile.

Breeders are required to pay a \$100.00 fee for each intact animal six months or older kept on the premises.

The City of Asheville in addition, has a pet limit law restricting ownership to a total of six pets of any species.

Because of the passage of the ordinance Humane Alliance, the assembly line spay and neuter factory, got busy. Since they knew that their success meant that there would not be any more pets to sterilize locally, they obtained grants to spread their program. First they established satellites in neighboring counties in N.C.

There was a grant from HSUS, and then an even more generous one from "deep pockets" ASPCA. The spay and neuter sterilization program spread its wings to enroll candidates in their program in a number of locations across the United States.

This summer ASPCA merged with Humane Alliance whose veterinarians specialize in performing only hysterectomies and castrations on animals they usually have never seen before and who have already been anesthetized. **As soon as these animals are awake they are sent away and never seen again.** Since ASPCA and Humane Alliance merged there were late summer multiple ads each day on TV Channel WLOS featuring the merger and claiming the benefits of sterilization, picturing an unidentified man wearing a blue uniform, telling us that we must stop pet overpopulation, and whose final words are, "It's the Law." The venture is slated to spread the wholesale nature of the program worldwide. With the bottomless pockets of ASPCA you can bet there will be a huge upswing in the promotion and ownership of "rescued, fixed" pets. The ad was paid for by the Mimi Paige Foundation.

When you see new ads on TV with the videos of sad little pets accompanied by sorrowful music, requesting \$19.00 a month donations be assured that much of those donations will be to promote these ads, both nationally and locally. The ASPCA operates on an annual \$202million budget.

For a more balanced view on sterilization of dogs, read:

<http://www.naiaonline.org/pdfs/LongTermHealthEffectsOfSpayNeuterInDogs.pdf>

<http://24kgsd.com/blog/early-spay-neuter/>

<http://www.akcchf.org/news-events/news/health-implications-in-early.html>

"USING DOGS" ARE PURPOSE BRED

"Using Dogs" is an old fashioned term for dogs that actually have a use. They herd, protect, pull carts and sleds, hunt, trail, or guard livestock. They also search and rescue, do police work and serve in the military.

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Tam Cordingley, CSI Instructor/ Canine Consultant

Using dogs are dogs that "do" so the next thing is how and why purpose bred dogs were produced and where have they gone.



There are various theories of how and why wolves came to turn into dogs⁽¹⁾. Whether it was easier to scavenge off early man or man used the skill of the wolves to find game, and then run the wolves off, steal the kill, and give the dogs the leftovers. We will never know for sure, but the development of dogs for specific purposes is an interesting study.

Why do some guarding breed dogs kill livestock when other dogs protect the livestock from predators? Probably the best of the herding breeds, Border Collies and German Shepherds are also the most prevalent sheep killers. This is because of inbred prey drive whereas *inhibited prey drive* is what herding is all about.

The flock guardian breeds, Pyrs, Komondorok, Maremma, Kuvasok, Sarpliac, and similar breeds have almost no prey drive but they do have a strong *territorial instinct*. They don't chase sheep, goats, or cattle but woe be to the wolf or errant dog that wanders into a pasture protected by one of those big, heavily coated dogs. By the way these flock guardian breeds are mostly white, wooly, and big, the better to blend in with the flock. The herding breeds are dark colored so they can be seen among the sheep or some distance away on the other side of the herd.

Terriers were, and are, bred to rid the world, or their particular piece of it, of mice, snakes, foxes, rats, and any other bothersome vermin. They love their jobs and tackle it with enthusiasm. Most of the terriers are fairly small, the better to *go after vermin in their dens*. Fox Terriers, of both coats, are predominantly white, as are the West Highland white terriers. The story is that the Cairn and the Westie were both one breed until a Scottish dog owner shot a dog by mistake. He was so upset at the loss of his dog that he vowed to breed only white ones that could be seen from that point on. The Manchester terrier, also called the Toy Terrier was and is a great ratter. In the late 1800s and early 1900s competitions were held in a "pit" to see how many rats could be killed by a terrier.

Then we have hounds and sporting dogs. These dogs are divided very sharply into using types and show types. The actual hunting beagle or the hunting pointer look like very distant cousins of the show dogs that we see winning in the ring. The English Setter is another breed in which the field type and the show type are sharply divergent. There are a few, and I do mean a very few, dual Champions in some breeds. German Shorthairs come to mind. The field Labrador is much lighter in build than his show dog cousin. The field Chesapeake Bay Retrieve and the show Chessies are more alike, although becoming more divergent rather than less.

Working dogs are also very divergent. The working German Shepherd is an good example of purpose bred and totally different from the show line GSD. Working Border Collies only resemble the show Border Collie in that most are black and white. European Doberman Pinchers don't look like our elegant show dogs. The malamute is probably one exception, also the Siberian Husky. The Anatolian, Kuvasz, and the Rottie are pretty similar in type but the temperament is vastly different. An Anatolian is a very formidable animal when actually guarding his flock. A hands on examination would not be tolerated.



Then we have the toys. Their entire purpose is to be lovely little pets and lap warmers. Many are bred down from larger cousins, like the Toy Manchester Terrier and the various toy spaniels. These little charmers share the happy and cheerful disposition of the merry tailed spaniels used for hunting or show. Many of these small dogs have beautiful markings and lovely coats. Many of them also share sweet and lovable faces, designed to charm.

Personally I hate to see the using dog go by the wayside. They have been used as everything from tiny lap warmers to big game hunters. I use a personal protection dog every time I go out in the car. We use both a herding dog and a herd control dog every day when we care for the livestock. We have terriers in the house but no mice, and the snakes outdoors best keep a wide berth.

Rather than just a conformation show dog winner why not teach our dogs at the very least obedience? There are herding and tracking trials, hunting trials for various breeds, coursing, agility, rally and traditional obedience, flyball, dock diving ⁽²⁾, and I'm sure I've forgotten some.

It is good for us to be active and even better for our four legged friends, especially the "using dogs" that are born and bred to work and with for us.

ref 1 [How Wolves and Dogs Changed Human Evolution](#)

ref 2 [Dock Diving Is A Popular UKC event](#)

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